Muthusamy, Jansen put SA on top in second India Test

GUWAHATI: Senuran Muthusamy struck his first Test century and Marco Jansen hammered 93 to guide South Africa to a commanding 489 all out on day two of the second match against India on Sunday.

The left-handed Muthusamy made 109 and put on 97 runs for the eighth wicket with Jansen, who was the last wicket to fall in the final session in Guwahati.

"First innings runs in the sub-continent are vital," Muthusamy told reporters. "So, yeah, it was just really, really awesome experience out there.

And it was just a lot of relief when I got to 100." Muthusamy praised Jansen's knock, saying, "Marco was sublime when he came in. He's a clean striker of the ball and he really, really showed his skills today. So, that was an awesome treat to watch from the other end."

Jansen struck six fours and seven sixes in his 91-ball blitz before he dragged a delivery from Kuldeep Yadav on to his stumps and the innings ended after 151.1 overs.

The hosts reached nine for no loss in 6.1 overs at stumps, trailing South Africa by 480 runs on a pitch still looking good to bat at India's newest Test venue.

SOUTH AFRICA'S Senuran Muthusamy (L) celebrates with team-mate Marco Jansen after scoring a century during the second Test against India at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium on Sunday.—AFP

Yashasvi Jaiswal, on seven, and KL Rahul, on two were at the crease when bad light stopped play for the day in the northeastern city where sunsets are early.

The 6ft 8in (2.03m) Jansen frustrated the Indian attack as he hung on with number nine and 10 after he reached his fourth Test half-century and surpassed his previous best of 84 not out in the longer format.

Jansen's seven hits over the fence are the joint-most in a Test innings against India. Pakistan's Shahid Afridi hit as many during his 103 in Lahore in 2006.

Muthusamy reached his hundred in 192 balls off pace bowler Mohammed Siraj, as he punched the air and raised his bat to a standing ovation from the crowd and the dressing room.

He fell soon after the second break but Jansen, a right-hand batter and left-arm quick, kept up the charge with Simon Harmer (5) and Keshav Maharaj, unbeaten on 12.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja ended a 88-run seventh-wicket stand after a wicket-less first session when Kyle Verreynne was stumped for 45 by captain Rishabh Pant.

Kuldeep finished with four wickets with his left-arm wrist spin.

"To be very honest we knew that this is not a track they are not going to roll out very easily and we have to keep disciplined lines and be patient," said Kuldeep. "We tried, but as everyone knows Marco Jansen and Muthuswamy batted well." The tourists, who won the toss and elected to bat on Saturday, are in the hunt for their first series victory in India in 25 years after they won the opener of the two-match series.

Earlier Muthusamy and Verreynne used their feet to tackle spinners in a sedate first hour of play when only 28 runs were scored, including two fours.

Muthusamy survived a scare on 48 when Jadeja had him given out lbw, but the batsman's review showed a murmur when the ball passed his glove and the decision was overturned.—AFP

Scoreboard

SOUTH AFRICA (1st Innings, overnight 247-6):	(Markram), 2-82 (Rickelton), 3-166 (Bavuma), 4-187 (Stubbs), 5-201 (Mulder), 6-246 (de Zorzi), 7-334 (Verreynne), 8-431 (Muthusamy), 9-462 (Harmer)
A. Markram b Bumrah 38	**BOWLING:** Bumrah 32-10-75-2 (2nb), Siraj 30-5-106-2 (1w, 1nb), Reddy 6-0-25-0, Sundar 26-5-58-0, Yadav 29.1-4-115-4, Jadeja 28-2-94-2 (1nb)
R. Rickelton c Pant b Yadav 35	**INDIA** (1st Innings):
T. Stubbs c Rahul b Yadav 49	Y. Jaiswal not out 7
T. Bavuma c Jaiswal b Jadeja 41	K. L. Rahul not out 2
T. de Zorzi c Pant b Siraj 28	**TOTAL** (for no wicket, 6.1 overs) 9
W. Mulder c Jaiswal b Yadav 13	**BOWLING:** Jansen 3.1-1-9-0, Mulder 3-3-0-0
S. Muthusamy c Jaiswal b Siraj 109	
K. Verreynne st Pant b Jadeja 45	
M. Jansen b Yadav 93	
S. Harmer b Bumrah 5	
K. Maharaj not out 12	
EXTRAS (B-8, LB-8, NB-4, W-1) 21	
TOTAL (all out, 151.1 overs) 489	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82	

ATP Challenger Cup, CAS International Squash Championship begin today

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is set to host two major international sports events from Monday as the first-ever ATP Challenger Cup Pakistan and the Chief of Air Staff International Squash Championship get underway, featuring dozens of foreign and local players.

The APT Challenger Cup will take place at the Pakistan Tennis Federation's SDA Complex, while the squash championship will be staged at the Mushaf Squash Complex.

Two qualifying matches for the tennis event were held on Sunday. Pakistan's Samir Iftikhar eased past compatriot Ahmad Nael Qureshi 6-2, 6-0, while Yousaf Khalil defeated Barkatullah Khan 6-4, 6-3.

The Challenger Cup runs from Nov 24 to 30 with a 32-player main draw. Sweden's Elias Ymer, ranked 169 in the world, leads the seedings and enters as favourite. Britain's Jay Clarke (No. 213) and Georgia's Saba Purtseladze (No. 290) are also among the top contenders. Six other players fall within the 400–600 ranking bracket, while several lower-ranked internationals — including Italy's Simone Agostini (No. 2138) — will also feature.

Pakistan has awarded wild cards to Muzammil Murtaza, Mohammad Shoaib and veteran Aqeel Khan.

Former player Mushaf Zia told *Dawn* that Pakistani players must take full advantage of the opportunity to earn ranking points.

Meanwhile, 17 foreign players will contest the CAS–Serena Hotels International Squash Championship, scheduled from Nov 24 to 28. According to the Pakistan Squash Federation, players from the Czech Republic, Egypt, Hong Kong-China, Japan, Malaysia and Switzerland will participate alongside seven Pakistanis.

World No. 42 Karim El Hamamy of Egypt is the top seed, while Pakistan's Noor Zaman, ranked 43rd, is seeded second. The main draw features 24 players, with the final set for Nov 28.—Sports Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Zimbabwe's Tinotenda Maposa is cleaned up by Pakistan spinner Usman Tariq during the Twenty20 International tri-series match at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.—Tanveer Shahzad/White Star

Usman hat-trick destroys Zimbabwe as Pakistan make T20 tri-series final

By Kashif Abbasi

RAWALPINDI: Mystery spinner Usman Tariq produced a spell for the ages, claiming a hat-trick and stunning figures of 4 for 18 to bowl Pakistan to a crushing 69-run victory over Zimbabwe in their Twenty20 International tri-series clash at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday night.

The win sealed for Pakistan a spot in the November 29 final.

Chasing a formidable 196, Zimbabwe were skittled for a paltry 126 in 19 overs, collapsing from 60 for 4 to 60 for 7 in the space of just five deliveries during a mesmerising 10th over from the 25-year-old Usman.

The Rawalpindi crowd erupted as the unorthodox spinner became only the fourth Pakistani to take a T20I hat-trick.

Zimbabwe never recovered from the early blows delivered by Pakistan's pace battery.

Naseem Shah struck with his sixth ball when Tadiwanashe Marumani (four) chipped tamely to cover point, and Mohammad Wasim Jr clean-bowled the dangerous Brian Bennett (nine) with a sharp inswinger to reduce the visitors to 14 for 2.

Brendan Taylor looked scratchy and fell for eight, spooning a simple catch to Babar Azam at cover off Faheem Ashraf.

Sikandar Raza, Zimbabwe's captain and biggest hope, counter-attacked with 23 off 18 balls, launching Faheem for a huge six over deep midwicket. But once he picked out the same fielder off Mohammad Nawaz in the eighth over, the innings fell apart spectacularly.

Ryan Burl waged a lone battle, stroking an elegant unbeaten 67 from 49 balls (eight fours, two sixes) with exquisite timing and placement.

His fifty came off 32 deliveries and featured a 101-metre slog-sweep off Nawaz — the biggest six of the night — but he received no support whatsoever.

The defining moment arrived in the 10th over. Tony Munyonga top-edged a sweep to short fine leg, Tashinga Musekiwa played too early and was bowled off his pads, and Wellington Masakadza skied a slog-sweep straight to long-on to complete Usman's hat-trick.

Usman returned later to castle Tinotenda Maposa and finish with career-best figures.

Burl continued to fight, adding 44 runs for the last wicket with Richard Ngarava (five), who was eventually run out off the final ball. But the result had long been sealed. Earlier, a sensational late assault from Fakhar Zaman, who blazed an unbeaten 27 off just 10 balls with three sixes and a four, lifted Pakistan to a formidable 195 for 5.

Coming in at number seven, Fakhar turned the final two overs into a personal highlight reel.

He smoked Brad Evans for 25 runs in the last over, including two towering sixes and a deftly placed four, while also benefiting from a crucial no-ball that reprieved him on the final delivery.

In all, Pakistan plundered 69 runs from the last five overs after a more measured start.

Earlier, Babar Azam and Sahibzada Farhan had laid a solid platform with a classy 103-run second-wicket partnership.

Sahibzada, continuing his rich vein of form, struck a brisk 63 off 41 balls (four fours and three sixes) before falling in the 16th over to Raza's skiddy arm-ball.

Babar, who had looked scratchy in the powerplay, grew into his innings beautifully, reaching 74 off 52 deliveries (seven fours and two sixes) before holing out to deep midwicket off Raza in the 18th over.

Pakistan's innings began cautiously after they were asked to bat first. Saim Ayub threatened fireworks with two early sixes but perished for 13, pulling Evans to deep square leg.

Farhan and Babar then rebuilt steadily; the former racing to a 32-ball fifty with elegant drives and pulls, while Babar, after a slow start, found his timing in the second half of the innings, bringing up his fifty in 43 balls before accelerating.

A middle-order wobble — Faheem run out for three, Babar and Mohammad Nawaz falling in quick succession — briefly pegged Pakistan back to 167 for 5 with less than two overs remaining.

But Fakhar's pyrotechnics ensured the hosts posted what appears a challenging total on a surface that offered occasional low bounce and grip for the spinners.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN:	T. Marumani c Sahibzada b Naseem 4
Sahibzada Farhan b Raza 63	B. Taylor c Babar b Faheem 8
Saim Ayub c Masakadza b Evans 13	S. Raza c Faheem b Nawaz 23
Babar Azam c Evans b Raza 74	R. Burl not out 67
Faheem Ashraf run out Raza 3	T. Munyonga c Naseem b Usman 1
Mohammad Nawaz c Evans b Ngarava 4	T. Musekiwa b Usman 0
Salman Ali Agha not out 1	W. Masakadza c Babar b Usman 0
Fakhar Zaman not out 27	B. Evans b Nawaz 2
EXTRAS (LB-5, NB-1, W-4) 10	T. Maposa b Usman 3
TOTAL (for five wickest, 20 overs) 195	R. Ngarava run out 5
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29 (Saim), 2-132 (Sahibzada), 3-144 (Faheem), 4-163 (Babar), 5-167 (Nawaz)	**EXTRAS** (LB-1, NB-1, W-2) 4
DID NOT BAT: Usman Khan, Mohammad Waseem Jr, Naseem Shah, Usman Tariq	**TOTAL** (all out, 19 overs) 126
BOWLING: Ngarava 4-0-34-1, Maposa 3-0-20-0 (2w), Evans 4-0-59-1 (1nb), Masakadza 4-0-27-0, Burl 1-0-11-0 (1w), Raza 4-0-39-2	**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-6 (Marumani), 2-14 (Bennett), 3-25 (Taylor), 4-59 (Raza), 5-60 (Munyonga), 6-60 (Musekiwa), 7-60 (Masakadza), 8-63 (Evans), 9-82 (Maposa)
ZIMBABWE:	**BOWLING:** Naseem 4-0-31-1 (1w, 1nb), Waseem 4-0-25-1 (1w), Faheem 3-0-30-1, Nawaz 4-0-21-2, Usman 4-1-18-4
B. Bennett b Waseem 9	**RESULT:** Pakistan won by 69 runs.
	PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH: Usman Tariq

Shaheens retain Asia Cup Rising Stars title

DOHA: Pakistan Shaheens defended a modest 125 to beat Bangladesh 'A' in a nerve-shredding Super Over thriller and successfully defend their Asia Cup Rising Stars title at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium on Sunday night.

In a final that swung wildly in the space of 40 minutes, Pakistan were bowled out for 125 after yet another top-order meltdown, only for their spinners to rip through Bangladesh 'A' and leave them reeling at 53 for 7.

A gritty 43-run eighth-wicket stand between Rakibul Hasan and SM Meherob threatened the unthinkable, before three huge sixes in the 19th over from Abdul Gaffar Saqlain took the game to a Super Over.

Ahmed Daniyal lean-bowled both batters in the first four balls of the Super Over to restrict Bangladesh to just six.

Ripon Mondol, Bangladesh's hero with the ball in the main game, started superbly with two yorkers but Saad Masood's flicked four off the third legitimate delivery sealed a famous victory for Pakistan Shaheens.

Earlier, Shaheens' batting woes resurfaced on a tricky two-paced surface. They lost Yasir Khan to a run-out off the very first ball when Gaffar's brilliant direct hit caught the opener short.

Two balls later, Mohammad Faiq was castled by left-arm spinner Meherob and when Ghazi Ghori played down the wrong line to Rakibul, Pakistan were 25 for 3 in the powerplay.

Maaz Sadaqat counter-attacked briefly with a 23-ball 23, but once he chopped on against part-time off-spinner Jishan Alam, the innings fell away.

Only Arafat Minhas (25) and a fighting 38 from 26 balls by Saad — the only batter to strike at above 100 after the powerplay — offered resistance.

Bangladesh's spinners strangled the middle overs, Rakibul finishing with 2-16 and Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby a miserly 0-17 from his four.

Mondol then blew away the lower order with a devastating 19th over that yielded three wickets for just two runs, including two pinpoint yorkers.

Chasing 126, Bangladesh looked well set at 36 for 1 after four overs, Habibur Rahman Sohan having launched Ubaid Shah for a huge six. But the introduction of spin turned the game on its head.

Arafat Minhas struck with his third ball, trapping Jishan lbw, and in his next over removed Mahidul Islam Ankon in identical fashion.

Saad then produced a rank long-hop that Sohan spooned to midwicket, and when Sufiyan Muqeem skidded one through Akbar Ali's gate, Bangladesh had lost four wickets for eight runs.

Sufiyan, the outstanding bowler of the tournament, was unplayable at times, finishing with 3-11 from four overs including two googlies that crashed into the stumps.

At 53 for 7, Pakistan appeared home and dry, only for Rakibul (24) and Meherob (19) to add 37 crucial runs and keep Bangladesh hopes flickering.

The drama peaked in the final two overs; Shahid Aziz was hammered for three sixes in the 19th as Saqlain took 20 runs off it.

Needing seven off the last over, Daniyal kept his nerve, conceding just three runs and two byes off the first five balls before a leg-bye off the final delivery forced the tie.—Agencies

Veteran duo Asif and Asjad win IBSF team World Cup title for Pakistan

MUSCAT: Pakistan's cue masters, the veteran duo of Mohammad Asif and Asjad Iqbal, etched their names in history by clinching the IBSF Team World Cup title in a thrilling final against Hong Kong in Muscat on Sunday.

The showdown began with Hong Kong's Chau Hon Man taking on Asjad.

Man displayed formidable long potting, dominating the first frame. He capitalised on an early opening from Asjad — who recently reached the final of the individual event — to meticulously construct a decisive break of 85, sealing the frame 94-0 and putting Pakistan on the back foot.

Needing a response, the 43-year-old Asif stepped up against Nansen Wan in the second frame.

What ensued was a cagey affair, with both players tentative and avoiding easy openings.

Wan managed to build a 17-point lead, but fortune turned when he fouled while playing a safety shot using the rest. The seasoned Asif pounced on the opportunity, masterfully building a sublime break of 82 to claim the frame 95-17 and level the match.

The pivotal third frame, a doubles contest, was another tight battle.

Asif initially struggled, conceding 12 points from three consecutive fouls. Although Hong Kong established a commanding 75-point lead through breaks of 31 and 37 from Wan, the Pakistani pair fought back.

However, after Asif added 24 points and with the deficit too large, Pakistan conceded the frame 84-41, handing the lead back to Hong Kong.

With their backs against the wall, Pakistan sent their most successful cueist, Asif, to face Wan in the fourth frame.

Wan started strong, extending his lead to 36 points before missing a tricky shot. Under immense pressure, Asif produced a moment of pure brilliance.

He executed a perfect century clearance, potting the final black to win the frame 100-36 and send the final into a nail-biting decider.

The title now rested on the decisive frame between Pakistan's former national champion, Asjad, and the youngster, Wan.

After a brief safety exchange, Asjad seized his opening. With the championship in sight, the Pakistani cueist, who had missed chances earlier, showed immense composure.

The 34-year-old Asjad confidently and carefully crafted a magnificent century break of 104, securing the title before missing an inconsequential yellow ball.

Amidst roaring applause from the crowd, the victorious Pakistani duo shook hands with their opponents, embracing the praise after a well-earned and memorable victory.

The path to the title saw the Pakistani duo deliver a series of commanding performances.

On Saturday, they secured a convincing 3-1 victory over arch-rivals India in the semi-final, a win that was preceded by a dominant 3-0 win against Qatar in the quarter-finals.—Agencies

Eze's derby hat-trick sends Arsenal six points clear

LONDON: Eberechi Eze scored a majestic hat-trick for Arsenal as they trounced north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur 4-1 to open up a commanding six-point lead at the top of the Premier League on Sunday.

For 36 minutes the North London derby was a cagey contest with Tottenham managing to frustrate Mikel Arteta's side, but the hosts struck three times in 10 minutes either side of halftime.

Leandro Trossard broke the deadlock from close range before Eze, the player Arsenal snatched from Tottenham in a summer transfer tussle, rifled in Arsenal's second after 41 minutes.

The second half was only seconds old when Eze again found space on the edge of the area to dispatch another shot inside the post and put his side in complete control.

Tottenham got a lifeline out of the blue in stunning fashion in the 55th minute when Richarlison lobbed Arsenal keeper David Raya from near the centre circle.

The visitors were more of a threat in the second half but Arsenal never really looked troubled and Eze completed his hat-trick in the 76th minute with another clinical finish.

Arsenal, unbeaten in nine league games, have 29 points from 12 games, with second-placed Chelsea on 23. Tottenham's first away league defeat of the season left them ninth on 18 points.

Earlier on Sunday, striker Morgan Rogers netted a double as Aston Villa fought back from a halftime deficit to beat Leeds United 2-1 away at Elland Road and move into the Premier League top four.

Defeat means Leeds remain in the bottom three, having lost five of their last six league games.

On Saturday, Pep Guardiola was left fuming after Newcastle United dented Manchester City's Premier League title challenge with a controversial 2-1 victory at St James' Park.

City trailed to Harvey Barnes' second-half opener before Ruben Dias equalised.

Moments after Dias levelled, Barnes bagged Newcastle's contentious second goal, which was allowed to stand after a lengthy VAR check for a potential offside against Bruno Guimaraes.—Agencies

England slammed as 'brainless' after first Ashes Test capitulation

PERTH: A stunned England woke Sunday to savage criticism after their meek capitulation in the first Ashes Test, branded "brainless" and "damaged" by former greats after their cavalier approach backfired.

Ben Stokes's men lost the opening battle in Perth by eight wickets inside two days on the back of batting collapses and Travis Head slamming a sensational 69-ball century.

Since last claiming an Ashes series in Australia 15 years ago, they have now lost 14 Tests, drawn two and won none Down Under.

England had a perfect opportunity to snap the dire streak and earn a psychological advantage heading into the day-night second Test in Brisbane on December 4.

But after reaching 160-5 the tourists lost five wickets for 12 runs to be bowled out for 172 on day one before regaining the advantage after dismissing Australia for 132.

They were on track for a big lead after reaching 65-1 in their second innings, but again threw away five wickets in quick succession to leave Australia chasing 205 which they achieved with ease.

Leading into Perth, Stokes called the former players who had criticised England's low-key build up as "has-beens" — and that came back to bite him.

"Well, from this has-been the message is simple: when you keep throwing away Test matches by doing the same stupid things, it is impossible to take you seriously," batting great Geoffrey Boycott said in a newspaper column. "They never learn, because they never listen to anyone outside their own bubble, because they truly believe their own publicity.

"Now it has bitten them in an Ashes Test, the biggest challenge of all, and unless they mount a spectacular comeback, they will regret it for a very long time.

"It is simple. Brainless batting and bowling lost England the match." Former captain Michael Vaughan also had some choice words, suggesting the manner of the loss will leave mental scars. This is going to hurt England, it's going to damage them I think," he told broadcasters.

"They have the tools to be really competitive, but you can't be competitive without brains."

Stokes admitted the team was "shell-shocked" and he and coach Brendon McCullum had a big job ahead to lift their players.

"When we get to Brisbane we need to be back up to that mindset of how we came into this game, still very confident of our abilities and achieving the goal," he said. "It's crucial not be taking any baggage from this result into Brisbane."

They are facing an ominous task in Brisbane where England have won just twice since World War II, but another former England captain is not yet ready to throw in the towel.

"They need to remember they played a lot of good cricket in this game, and remember that when you get ahead be ruthless and smart," Nasser Hussain told Sky Sports.

"It is a mountain to climb for England but they have a lot of character and a captain with a lot of character. They are going to need that."—AFP